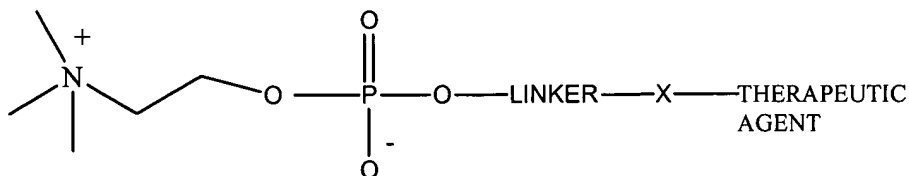


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound having the general formula I:



wherein the LINKER is one or more of the groups selected from the group consisting of (i) substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, (ii) substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl, (iii) substituted or unsubstituted alkanoyl, (iv) substituted or unsubstituted alkenoyl wherein the double bond is cis, and (v) (*ortho* or *para*) carbonyl-substituted aryl; and

wherein the substituent is each an independent group or linked together thereby forming a ring; and

wherein X is one or more substituted or unsubstituted group containing one or more O, N, or S atom and

wherein the substituent is each an independent group or linked together thereby forming a ring; and

wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of alcohol-containing water-insoluble steroids, anesthetics and sedatives,

and wherein said therapeutic agent is attached to X via an alcohol functional group and
another alcohol-containing compounds.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein
- (i) said alkyl has the formula CR_1R_2 ,
 - (ii) said alkenyl has the formula $\text{CR}_1=\text{CR}_3-\text{CR}_4$,
 - (iii) said alkanoyl has the formula $\text{CR}_1\text{R}_2-\text{CR}_3\text{R}_4-\text{CR}_5\text{R}_6-\text{CO}$,

Y20 is carboxy,

Y21 is (C₆₋₁₂) aryl- (C₁₋₈) alkyl,

Y22 is (C₆₋₁₂) aryl- (C₂₋₈) alkenyl,

Y23 is aromatic heterocyclo (C₁₋₈) alkyl,

and Y24 is aromatic heterocyclo (C₂₋₈) alkenyl wherein

the heterocyclic group of Y23 and Y24 have 5 - 10 ring atoms and comprises up to two O, N, or S heteroatoms; and

(iv) substituted Y21 or substituted Y23 wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of Y1, Y2, Y4, Y5, Y7, Y8, Y12, Y14, Y17-Y20, and Y25-Y29 wherein

Y25 is halogen,

Y26 is C₁₋₈-alkyl,

Y27 is amino-C₁₋₈-alkyl,

Y28 is C₆₋₁₂-aroyl, and

Y29 is C₁₋₈-alkanoyl.

3. (Original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein said R₁ and R₂; R₁ and R₃; R₂ and R₃; R₃ and R₄; R₃ and R₅; and R₅ and R₆ are linked together thereby forming:

(i) a ring of three to six carbon atoms, or

(ii) a ring of two to five carbon atoms and one O, or S heteroatom, or substituted heteroatom NR₇; wherein R₇ is selected from the group consisting of Y21, Y26, Y28, Y29, and Y30-Y31, wherein Y30 is C₃₋₈-alkenyl, and

Y31 is C₆₋₁₂-aryl.

4. (Original) A compound according to claim 2 wherein the group containing one or more O, N, or S atom is selected from the group consisting of O, (O) CO, NR₈, NR₈ CO, NR₈ CO NR₉, NR₈ (SO₂), NR₈ CS, NR₈ CS NR₉, ONR₈, ONR₈CO, NR₈(O), NR₈(O)CO, nitrogen heterocycles, amide and urea internal in therapeutic agent; and

wherein R₈ and R₉ are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of

- (i) hydrogen;
- (ii) linear, branched, and unsaturated C₁₋₁₂-alkyl;
- (iii) substituted C₁₋₈-alkyl, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of Y1-Y13 and Y15-Y25;
- (iv) substituted Y21 or substituted Y23 wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of Y1, Y2, Y4, Y5, Y7, Y8; Y12, Y14, Y17-Y20, and Y25-Y29.

5. (Original) A. compound according to claim 4 wherein R₈ and R₉ are linked together thereby forming

- (i) a ring of three to six carbon atoms, or
- (ii) a ring of two to five carbon atoms and one O, or S heteroatom, or substituted heteroatom NR₇; wherein R₇ is selected from the group consisting of Y21, Y26, and Y28-Y31.

6. (Original) A compound according to claim 4 wherein R₈, R₉, or both are connected to the therapeutic agent molecule thereby forming alkylene bridge of from one to five carbon atoms and one or two O, S or NR₇ heteroatoms; wherein R₇, is selected from the group consisting of Y21, Y26, Y28-Y31, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

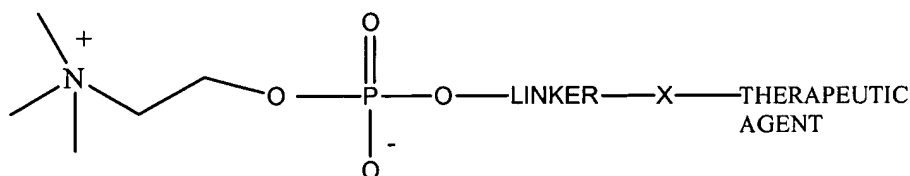
7. (Original) A compound according to claim 5 wherein R₈, R₉, or both are connected to the therapeutic agent molecule thereby forming alkylene bridge of from one to five carbon atoms and one or two O, S or NR, heteroatoms; wherein R₇ is selected from the group consisting of Y21, Y26, Y28-Y31; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

8. (Original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein said (*ortho* or *para*) carbonyl-substituted aryl is selected from the group consisting of *ortho*-CR₁R₂-substituted aryl-CO, substituted aryl-*ortho*-CR₃R₄-CO, substituted aryl-*ortho*-CR₃R₄-CR₅R₆-CO, substituted aryl-*ortho*-CR₃=R₄-CO wherein the double bond is *cis*, *ortho*-CR₁R₂-substituted aryl-CR₅R₆-CO, and substituted aryl-(*ortho* or *para*)-CO.

9. (Original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein said aryl is selected from the group consisting of benzene, naphthalene, pyridine, pyrrole, thiophene, furan, imidazole, thiazole, oxazole, pyrimidine, indole, benzimidazole, benzthiazole, benzofuran, benzothiophene and quinoline, each bearing one or more of the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₈-alkyl, C₁₋₈-alkoxy, F, Cl, Br, C₁₋₈-alkoxycarbonyl, amino, substituted amino, nitro, C₁₋₈-alkylthio, C₁₋₈-alkylsulfoxido, and C₁₋₈-alkylsulfono.
10. (Original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ is hydrogen.
11. (Original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ and R₂ are hydrogen.
12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is ~~selected from the group consisting of Propofol and related~~ an anesthetic compound or a sedative compounds compound.
13. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein said water-insoluble steroids are selected from the group consisting of (i) testosterone, (ii) cardiotonic steroids selected from the group consisting of digitoxigenin, digoxigenin and ouabugenin, (iii) dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), (iv) etiocholanolone, (v) pregnenolone, (vi) estradiol, (vii) estrone, (viii) dexamethasone and (ix) hydrocortisone.
14. (Currently Amended) A ~~compound according to~~ composition comprising a compound of claim 1, ~~further comprises one or more of the ingredients selected from the group consisting of~~ and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier ~~carriers, diluents, fillers, salts, buffers, preservatives, antioxidants, a binder, an excipient, a disintegrating agent, a lubricant, and a sweetening agent.~~
15. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 incorporated into tablets, capsules or elixirs for oral administration; suppositories for rectal administration; sterile

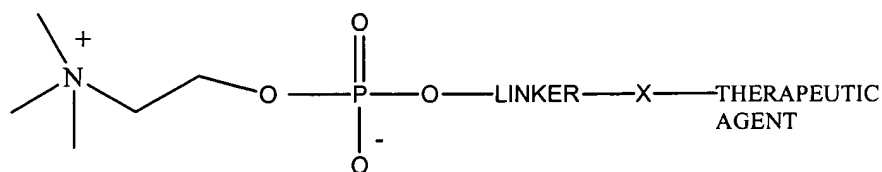
solutions or suspensions for injectable administration; or sterile solutions for ocular (?) or intranasal administration.

16. (Original) A compound having the general formula I:



wherein the LINKER is a substituted alkenyl of formula $\text{CR}_1\text{R}_2\text{-CR}_3=\text{CR}_4\text{-CO}$, wherein R_1 , R_3 , and R_4 , are hydrogen and wherein the double bond is *trans*, and wherein X is 0 and wherein the therapeutic agent is 2',6'-diisopropyl phenol.

17. (Original) A compound having the general formula I:



wherein the LINKER is a substituted alkanoyl of formula $\text{CR}_1\text{R}_2\text{-CR}_3\text{R}_4\text{-CR}_5\text{R}_6\text{-CO}$,
 wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 are H, and
 wherein X is 0 and
 wherein the therapeutic agent is 2',6'-diisopropyl phenol.

